

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED

MAY 2 1979

DATE ENTERED

JUL 16 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Elks Athletic Club

AND/OR COMMON

YWCA

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

604 South Third Street

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

3 &amp; 4

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

021

COUNTY

Jefferson

CODE

111

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

\_\_\_ DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

\_\_\_ STRUCTURE

\_\_\_ SITE

\_\_\_ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

\_\_\_ PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

\_\_\_ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

\_\_\_ IN PROCESS

\_\_\_ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

\_\_\_ UNOCCUPIED

\_\_\_ WORK IN PROGRESS

☒ ACCESSIBLE

\_\_\_ YES: RESTRICTED

\_\_\_ YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_\_ NO

## PRESENT USE

\_\_\_ AGRICULTURE

\_\_\_ COMMERCIAL

\_\_\_ EDUCATIONAL

\_\_\_ ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_\_ GOVERNMENT

\_\_\_ INDUSTRIAL

\_\_\_ MILITARY

\_\_\_ MUSEUM

\_\_\_ PARK

\_\_\_ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_\_ RELIGIOUS

\_\_\_ SCIENTIFIC

\_\_\_ TRANSPORTATION

☒ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Young Women's Christian Association

STREET &amp; NUMBER

604 South Third Street

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

Kentucky 40202

STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Jefferson County Court House

STREET &amp; NUMBER

517 West Jefferson Street

CITY, TOWN

Louisville,

Kentucky

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Kentucky Survey of Historic Sites

DATE

1978

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort, Kentucky

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

\_\_EXCELLENT

☒GOOD

\_\_FAIR

\_\_DETERIORATED

\_\_RUINS

\_\_UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

\_\_UNALTERED

☒ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ORIGINAL SITE

\_\_MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Elks Club is situated in Louisville's central business district, a compact urban core, rich in a diversity of architectural styles from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The Elks Club is a handsome eight-story structure of brick and stone. The lower two stories are stone and are divided into nine bays. The first floor bays are flanked by stone piers and have large window areas for shops. The central three bays served as entrances. Originally, a wooden canopy with a scalloped edge covered the entrance. A plain entablature with a band of stylized fret work, divides the first and second floors. The second floor consists of the three central stone arches with stylized fret work, and windows corresponding to the entrances. The arches are flanked by three sets of triple mullied windows separated by stone panels with geometric decoration. This floor is topped by a stone entablature with a band of egg and dart motif. The upper floors are also divided into nine bays but each bay only contains two double windows. The end bays are in stone and the central portion of the third through the sixth floors are of brick. The three central window units of the third floor have stone jambs and architraves and are separated by stone panels with urn and rosette decoration. The window on either side have stone panels with swag and fret decoration underneath. They are also topped by a broken stone pediment. The top two stories are in stone. The bays are divided vertically by piers which run the height of the two stories. The windows are divided horizontally by stone panels with carved decoration. The building is capped by a plain entablature and stone balustrade.

The interior of the building has been altered in some areas, but in other areas remains intact. The main lobby and the main corridors on the first floor have lowered ceilings (The feasibility of exposing the intact ceiling now hidden is currently being studied.) The interior spaces are filled with classical details of every kind. Dentil, egg and dart, and block modillion moldings are used in every available space. Great consoles rise from pillars, and abundantly detailed Corinthian capitals decorate pilasters. Swags and cartouches are found on most cross beams and lintels.

A spectacular room which has been adapted for office space by the use of partitions, is the Lodge Room on the eighth floor. Nearly the entire ceiling is glass which brilliantly illuminated the space. The cross beams have intricate foliage detailing and are matched along the wall with Corinthian capitated pilasters. The ceiling in this room too has been lowered, but the hidden portion is intact.

The Ball Room of the Elks Club is a spectacular room, which has not been altered. Huge cross beams are highly decorated with dentil, and egg and dart moldings. The paired windows are topped by swags and cartouches in bas relief and lovely chandeliers hang, two in each bay.

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

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### SPECIFIC DATES

1924

### BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Joseph & Joseph Architects

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### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Elks Athletic Club is a prominent, eight-story neo-classical structure, which was constructed during the commercial heyday of Louisville's central business district. Its significance lies in its architectural quality and its contribution to the stability of the southern end of the district. The building is one of the finest examples of the modified neo-classical revival style used extensively in Louisville's commercial architecture from 1910-1930. Other structures in this style included the Republic Building (1917), the Rialto Theatre (destroyed), the Kentucky Theatre (1926), and the Breslin Building (1928). The designers of the Elks Club, the architectural firm of Joseph and Joseph, were one of Louisville's more important designing firms after 1910.

The prosperity which Louisville has experienced since its founding in 1778 brought an increase in population and an expansion in building. The early city developed primarily in the area of the central business district. Louisville's growth and prosperity continued until the 1920s, punctuated by a few periods of depression in the 1870s and 1890s and the period briefly before World War I. Building activity continued throughout this period as well.

The Elks Athletic Club Building was constructed by the local architectural firm of Joseph and Joseph in 1924. The firm was formed in 1908 by Alfred and Oscar Joseph. Alfred Joseph, senior member of the firm, received his architectural training under the firms of McDonald Brothers, McDonald and Shebley, and McDonald and Dodd. With these firms he participated in the projects for the Presbyterian Seminary, Temple Adath Israel, and the original Weissinger-Gaulbert apartment complex.

Alfred left McDonald in 1908 and with his brother Oscar began the firm of Joseph and Joseph. Oscar Joseph received his formal training at the University of Michigan as a civil engineer. Their first office was at 150-152 Lincoln Bank Building. A shoe shine parlor (elevation still in possession of A.S. Joseph II) for B. Bimbas and J. Gontias was their first commission in 1908. Their first major commission was the old Kentucky State Fair Building.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview with Alfred S. Joseph II by Marty Hedgepeth.  
Joseph and Joseph Architects and Engineers (catalogue).  
Louisville Survey: Central and South, Louisville.  
City of Louisville, 1978, Carl Kramer, history text.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 2.4 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Louisville West

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 116 6088110 42339110  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block 13K Lot 48

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

M.A. Allgeier, Researcher

4-12-79

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Louisville Landmarks Commission

502-587-3501

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

727 West Main Street

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Louisville

Kentucky 40202

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL ✓

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE *Cedric W. Butler*

TITLE

DATE 9-15-79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Charles A. ...*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 7-15-79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 7/14/79

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CONTINUATION SHEET Elks Athletic Club ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2  
YWCA

Both the interior and exterior of the Elks Club Building display the designers' mastery of classical elements, and is an important architectural element in the southern end of the central business district.

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CONTINUATION SHEET YWCA  
Elks Athletic Club ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

The two brothers had different stylistic tendencies, though both usually participated in all commissions. Alfred Joseph preferred Classical, English and Gothic styles which reflects his work under McDonald. Oscar tended toward the stylistic influence of the Italian and Spanish Renaissance.

In the design of the Elks Club, Joseph and Joseph developed the neo-classical style which Oscar had learned so well under McDonald's guidance. Their use of the style matured into a more delineated and bas relief treatment of classical forms. The pinnacle of the Joseph and Joseph interpretation of neo-classicism was the Rialto Theatre, now demolished.

Other outstanding Joseph and Joseph designed buildings are the Fincastle Building, one block south of the Elks Club, YHCA Building, Kosair Hospital, Commodore and Dartmouth Apartment Buildings and the Republic Building. The firm designed many theatres, schools, residences, and several warehouses and factories.

The Elks Athletic Club followed a trend established by the Young Men's Christian Association and the Young Men's Hebrew Association. The YMCA constructed an impressive Beaux-Arts structure at Third and Broadway in 1913, designed by McDonald and Dodd. In 1915, YMHA followed suit, by the construction of their counterpart at Second and Jacob. Joseph and Joseph was the architectural firm which designed the YMHA Beaux-Arts building. The completion of the Elks Athletic Club, one block north of the YMCA, was appropriate. The Club sold the building only four years later, however, and it was easily adapted into hotel use by the Henty Clay Hotel. The Hotel carried on a successful venture until 1963, when appropriately, the Young Women's Christian Association purchased the building. The YWCA has occupied the building ever since.

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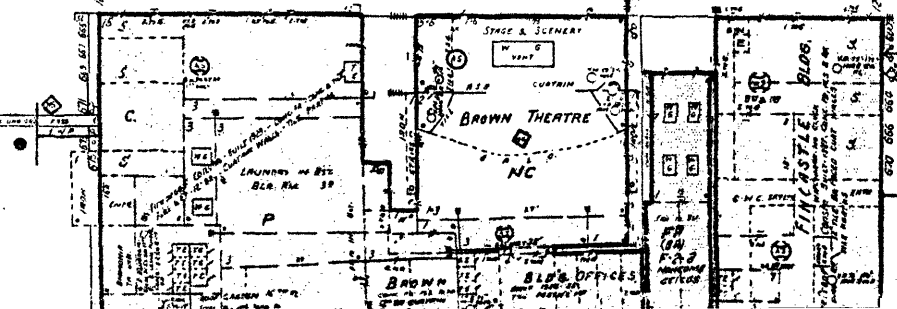
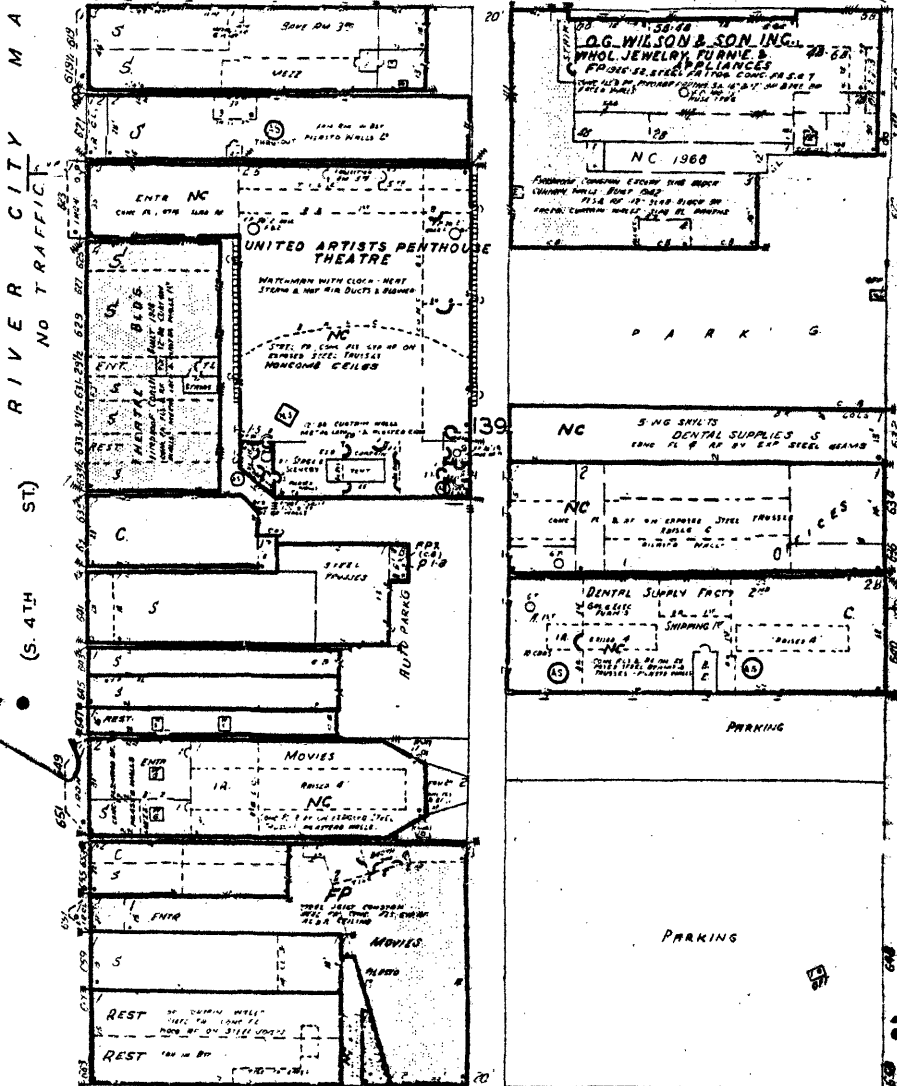
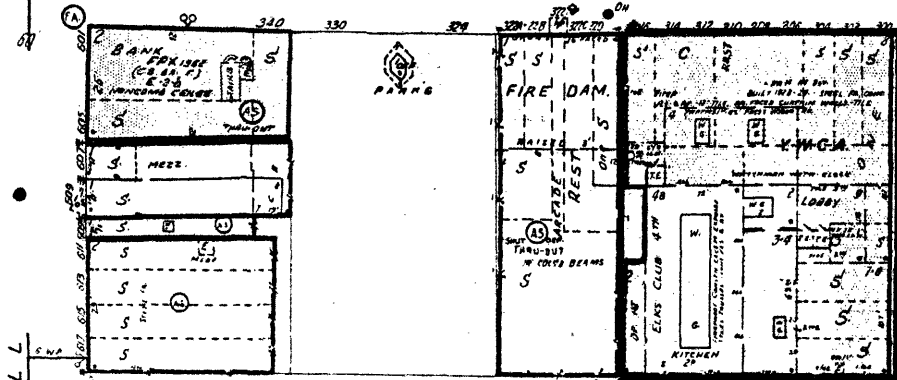
E7

W. CHESTNUT

RIVER CITY MALL  
No T Traffic  
(S. 4TH ST.)

78

80



Elks Athletic Club  
604 S. 3rd St.  
Louisville, Jefferson, Kentucky  
Sanborn Map Co.  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 1972  
Map **2** - Sanborn Map

Scale: 1"=200' JUL 16 1979

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